

~~Patent claims~~ What is claimed:

1. A method for ~~the~~ rule-based conversion of unstructured text information into a structured format, ~~having the following steps comprising:~~
  - a) inputting structuring rules ~~(10)~~ for structuring the unstructured text information; ~~(9) are input,~~
  - b) recording unstructured text information ~~(9) is recorded,;~~
  - c) parsing the unstructured text information ~~(9) is parsed in order to produce relatively smaller text fragments,;~~
  - d) searching ~~text units of the unstructured text information (9) are searched for text fragments defined in the structuring rules (10),;~~ and
  - e) structuring the text fragments of the unstructured text information ~~(9) are structured on the basis of conditions stipulated in the structuring rules (10).~~
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the unstructured text information ~~(9)~~ is recorded ~~in step b)~~ by a microphone, ~~with and wherein a voice recognition program is being used for conversion to the~~ unstructured text information.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the structuring rules ~~(10) contain~~ include information relating to the text fragments for which ~~the~~ a free text report needs to be searched.
4. The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the structuring rules

- ~~(10)~~ contain include information relating to the text fragments about which structure element is represented thereby.
5. The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the structuring rules ~~(10)~~ contain include information about how the structure needs to be set up.
6. An apparatus for ~~the~~ rule-based conversion of unstructured text information into a structured format, ~~having comprising:~~  
an input apparatus ~~(1, 2)~~ for, adapted to input unstructured text information;  
~~(9), having an input apparatus (1) and a memory apparatus (4) for, adapted to structureing rules;~~  
~~(10), having~~  
an extraction apparatus ~~(6)~~, adapted to extract relatively for smaller text units from the unstructured text information, ~~having;~~  
-a structuring apparatus ~~(7)~~ for, adapted to produceing structured text information ~~(11)~~ on the basis of the structuring rules ~~(10)~~; and  
~~having an evaluation apparatus, adapted to (8)~~  
~~for evaluate~~ the text units in the structured text information ~~(11)~~.
7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the input apparatus ~~(2)~~ for ~~unstructured text information (9)~~ has includes an associated apparatus ~~(3)~~ for voice recognition.
8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 ~~or 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein DICOM-SR is used as structured format for the structured text information ~~(9)~~.

9. The apparatus as claimed in ~~one of claims 6 to 8,~~  
~~characterized in that~~wherein XML is used as  
structured format for the structured text  
information ~~(9)~~.
10. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the  
structuring rules include information relating to  
the text fragments for which a free text report  
needs to be searched.
11. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the  
structuring rules include information relating to  
the text fragments about which structure element  
is represented thereby.
12. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the  
structuring rules include information about how  
the structure needs to be set up.
13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein DICOM-  
SR is used as structured format for the structured  
text information.
14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein XML  
is used as structured format for the structured  
text information.
15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein XML  
is used as structured format for the structured  
text information.
16. An apparatus for rule-based conversion of  
unstructured text information into a structured  
format, comprising:  
means for inputting structuring rules for  
structuring the unstructured text information;

New Patent Application  
Docket No. 32860-000621/US

- means for recording unstructured text information;
- means for parsing the unstructured text information to produce relatively smaller text fragments;
- means for searching the unstructured text information for text fragments defined in the structuring rules; and
- means for structuring the text fragments of the unstructured text information on the basis of conditions stipulated in the structuring rules.
17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the means for recording includes a microphone, and wherein the means for inputting includes a voice recognition program for conversion to the unstructured text information.
18. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structuring rules include information relating to the text fragments for which a free text report needs to be searched.
19. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structuring rules include information relating to the text fragments about which structure element is represented thereby.
20. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structuring rules include information about how the structure needs to be set up.